

University of Missouri-Columbia  
School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures  
Program of Study and Requirements  
**Master of Arts (MA) and Master of Arts in Language Teaching (MALT)  
In Spanish**

**Contents**

**1. ADMISSION**

- 1.1. Required materials for application
- 1.2. Additional materials for international students
- 1.3. Requirements for Admission
- 1.4. Proficiency Requirements in the Target Language
- 1.5. Proficiency Requirements in English
- 1.6. The Academic Advisor
- 1.7. Transfer of Credit

**2. PROGRAM OF STUDY**

- 2.1. Credit Hour Requirements
- 2.2. Teaching Methodology Requirement
- 2.3. Program of Study (M-1 Form)
- 2.4. Required Courses for **MA in Spanish**
- 2.5. MA Thesis in Spanish (M-2 Form)
- 2.6. Language, structure and quality of MA Thesis
- 2.7. Thesis Defense and Grades
- 2.8. MA Minor Field in Spanish
- 2.9. Required Courses for the **MALT in Spanish**
- 2.10. Comprehensive Examination for the MALT degree (M-3 Form)
- 2.11. Dates for the MALT Examination
- 2.12. MALT Examining Committee
- 2.13. Language of the MALT Examination
- 2.14. Grades for the MALT Examination
- 2.15. MALT Examining Committee Report (M-3 Form)
- 2.16. MALT Thesis in Spanish (M-2 Form)
- 2.17. Language of MALT Thesis
- 2.18. Thesis Defense and Grades
- 2.19. Maximum of 8 Years to Complete MA or MALT Degree

### **3. GRADUATE INSTRUCTORSHIPS**

- 3.1. Semesters of Financial Support
- 3.2. Teaching Load
- 3.3. Semester Evaluation of Graduate Students

### **4. MA and MALT PROGRAM OF STUDY**

- 4.1 MA PROGRAM OF STUDY
- 4.2 MALT PROGRAM OF STUDY

### **5. GRADUATION**

### **6. SCHEDULE OF FORMS (M-1, M-2, M-3)**

## 1. ADMISSION

Students who wish to pursue either the MA or the MALT degree should apply for admission online, through the Graduate School's website: <http://gradstudies.missouri.edu/admissions/apply/>

The student will find more information on admission in the MA and MALT programs at <https://sllc.missouri.edu/spanish/graduate-studies>

### 1. 1. Required materials for application at the Graduate School's website

- All required Graduate School documents
- Official Transcript
- 10- or 15-page writing sample in language of desired degree program
- 500-word Personal Statement, uploaded to the online application
- 3 letters of recommendation
- Résumé or CV

### 1.2. Additional materials for international students

- Official copies of diplomas earned at post-secondary institutions (colleges, universities, or the equivalent) outside the US.
- Required score obtained on one of the English proficiency tests accepted by the Graduate School. Applicants must upload these results in the Graduate School application portal ([SLATE](#)). More information about tests and minimum scores at <https://admissions.missouri.edu/apply-international/english-language-requirements/>

### 1.3. Requirements for Admission

Before their admission into the program, candidates for the MA or MALT must hold a Bachelor's degree (or the equivalent) with a GPA (or equivalent) of 3.0 or better in their major field of study. They must also demonstrate adequate preparation in advanced language and literature courses. This will require their having completed at least four courses equivalent to a 4000-level course at the University of Missouri. At a minimum, three of these courses must be in literature.

If members of the admissions committee determine a deficiency, they will require the student to complete remedial work in language or literature before or during the first year of enrollment, beyond the 30 credit hours necessary for the MA degree. The committee will inform students of such additional requirements at the time of their admission to the program or earlier.

#### **1.4. Proficiency Requirements in the Target Language**

All graduate students except native speakers of Spanish, upon admission to the program, must demonstrate proficiency in Spanish through an assessment, administered by an elementary language coordinator. Elementary language coordinators rely on this assessment to determine a student's eligibility for all levels of language teaching.

Students deemed to be deficient in either their written or spoken grasp of the language will need to undertake remedial work. These students will undergo reassessment the following year. Failure to demonstrate proficiency in the target language a second time will terminate a student's eligibility for the MA or MALT degree and result in dismissal from the graduate program.

#### **1.5. Proficiency Requirements in English**

All candidates must demonstrate proficiency in English, including non-native speakers of English who are US citizens.

#### **1.6. The Academic Advisor**

All graduate students in the department may choose, or the Director of Graduate Studies will assign them, an academic advisor at the start of their first semester of graduate study. Students must choose an academic advisor by the end of their first semester of graduate study. The academic advisor does not necessarily serve as the student's thesis or dissertation director.

#### **1.7. Transfer of Credit**

Students may transfer a maximum of 6 credit hours of graduate-level course work completed in other graduate programs. All transfers of credit require approval by the Director of Graduate Studies, in consultation with the Graduate Studies Committee. The Director and the Committee will award transfer credit only at the 7000 level.

### **2. PROGRAM OF STUDY**

#### **2.1. Credit Hour Requirements**

Candidates for the MA or the MALT must complete a total of 30 credit hours at the graduate-level (7000 or above). At least 15 hours (5 courses) must be in courses at the 8000 level or above. In the MALT program, at least 15 hours (5 courses) must be in the target language (Spanish). In the MA program, at least 18 hours (6 courses) must be in the target language (Spanish).

For the MA and MALT, the total number of credit hours in special readings (7960), problems (8085), or any combination of both may not exceed 6. The number of credit hours in special readings (7960) within the student's major field may not exceed 3 per semester.

## **2.2. Teaching Methodology Requirement**

Graduate Instructors with no pedagogical experience or those who have completed no graduate course in foreign language teaching methodology must complete Spanish 7120, (Foreign) Second-Language Teaching Methodology.

## **2.3. Program of Study ([M-1 Form](#))**

After consulting with the DGS in Spanish, MA and MALT candidates must submit a completed M-1 Program of Study to the Graduate School **by the end of their first semester**.

## **MA IN SPANISH**

### **2.4. Required Courses for the MA in Spanish**

Candidates pursuing the MA degree in Spanish must complete a minimum of **30 credit hours** courses prior to the defense of their dissertation. Of these, **at least 15 credit hours must be earned through graduate seminars** (8000-level courses). The curriculum includes both required and elective courses.

#### **Required Courses (12 credit hours):**

- Spanish Peninsular Literature (3 credits)
- Spanish-American Literature (3 credits)
- Afro-Hispanic / Latinx Literature and Culture (3 credits)
- Second-Language Teaching Methodology (3 credits)

#### **Elective Courses (minimum 15 credit hours):**

Elective courses must be selected from the following list, and **at least two of them must be graduate seminar courses**:

- Spanish Peninsular Literature (3 credits)
- Spanish-American Literature (3 credits)
- Afro-Hispanic / Latinx Literature and Culture (3 credits)
- 7000-level graduate courses

These elective courses may be taken outside the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (SLLC), for instance in departments such as History or Black Studies, with prior approval from the student's advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies.

After completing 27 credit hours of coursework, students must enroll in **Thesis Hours (3 credits)** under the supervision of the Thesis Director, bringing the total to 30 credit hours.

## **2.5. MA Thesis in Spanish (M-2 Form)**

By the end of their second semester, students are required to constitute a Thesis Committee and submit the M-2 form. The committee must include a minimum of three faculty members, with at least two belonging to the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. The third member may be from outside the SLLC. The thesis advisor must be a regular faculty member of the SLLC, holding a tenured, tenure-track, or ranked non-tenure-track appointment.

A minimum of 4 hours and a maximum of 6 hours of research credit (8080) will be allowed for the thesis. The final document must have a minimum length of **50 pages**, including appendices and bibliography. The thesis must conform to the University of Missouri's formatting and style specifications, available at this link: <https://gradschool.missouri.edu/current-students/thesis-dissertation/thesis-dissertation-guidelines/electronic-dissertation-thesis-basics/>

## **2.6. Language, structure and quality of MA Thesis**

Students must write the MA thesis in the language of specialization (Spanish).

To ensure academic rigor and consistency across all graduate theses, students must adhere to a set of minimum quality standards prior to submitting their work to the committee. **Each thesis must include a properly formatted title page, a paginated table of contents, an introduction that clearly outlines the research question, objectives, theoretical framework, and structure of the work, as well as a well-developed conclusion that synthesizes findings and suggests future research directions.** The document must be written in clear, academic Spanish, free of grammatical and typographical errors, and follow the University of Missouri's formatting and citation guidelines. Additional components such as an abstract, bibliography, and appendices should be included as appropriate. These structural and formal elements will be communicated to students early in the thesis-writing process, and failure to meet them may result in the thesis being returned for revision before it can be reviewed by the committee.

## **2.7. Thesis Defense and Grades**

The MA thesis requires a defense, open to the public, before the Thesis Committee. The thesis is graded as follows: High Pass, Pass, or Fail. In order to receive a passing grade on the MA thesis, a student must receive passing grades from all members of the Thesis Committee.

The thesis defense must be held no later than one month before the end of the semester in which the defense is scheduled. Prior to the defense, students must submit the final version of their thesis—revised and approved by their advisor—to all members of the thesis committee no later than three to four weeks before the scheduled defense date. This requirement is intended to ensure that all committee members have sufficient time to review the document and that the thesis is in a defensible state.

A student may only proceed to the defense with the explicit approval of the thesis advisor, who should confirm that the work meets the academic standards expected at this stage. If the committee deems the thesis to be unsatisfactory during the defense and assigns a failing grade, the student may, with the committee's consent, revise and resubmit the work. In such cases, a revised version must be submitted within 15 days following the failed defense, in order to allow sufficient time for substantive improvements. The committee will determine whether the revised thesis meets the requirements for a second defense.

Two failing outcomes on the thesis—whether at the initial or resubmission stage—will result in termination of candidacy for the degree and dismissal from the program.

## **2.8. MA Minor Field in Spanish**

MA students in Spanish may elect a minor field of study, under the supervision of their academic advisors. The minor requires a minimum of 9 hours of course work completed in another department or other departments. Students interested in such minors should consult the Graduate School website at this link: <http://gradschool.missouri.edu/programs/minors/>

Minor fields appear on students' program of study, but not on their transcripts. Students electing minors must either write an MA thesis or complete the standard MA examination in their major field (Spanish).

## **MALT IN SPANISH**

### **2.9. Required Courses for the MALT in Spanish**

The Program of Study for the MALT in Spanish must include the following distribution of credit hours, all at the 7000 level or above, and all within the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures:

- 6 credit hours in Language/Linguistics: "Spanish 7721: Structure of Modern Spanish," "Spanish 7723: Language and Society: Spanish in the US," "Stylistics"
- 6 credit hours in "Introduction to Hispanic Literature and Culture and its Pedagogy" I and II
- 6 hours in Latin-American and/or Peninsular literature seminars taught in Spanish. One of these two courses needs to have a focus on Afro-Hispanic literature

- 9 hours in “Span 7120: Second Language Teaching Methodology,” “Spanish 8120: Bilingualism and Language Contact,” “Spanish 8000: Research in Second Language Learning”

The Program of Study for the MALT requires that 5 of these courses (15-credit hours) be taught in Spanish. MALT students may take up to 3 credit hours in consultation with the Spanish graduate faculty, at the 7000 level or above, outside the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures. Students might earn outside credits in the College of Education and Human Development (in this case, the student would need to pay an extra fee) or the Department of English.

When taking literature and culture classes, candidates for the MALT must always take 8000 courses (seminars) in Peninsular and Latin-American Literature. These seminars must be taught in Spanish.

Candidates for the MALT must take at least one course on Afro-Hispanic literature and culture.

## **2.10. Comprehensive Examination for the MALT degree (M-3 Form)**

A candidate for the for the MALT degree must either write a thesis or pass a 6-hour written examination. Questions on the MALT examination are based on the candidate’s course work at the University of Missouri.

## **2.11. Dates for the MALT examination**

The School offers the MALT examination twice a year, in October and in March, as specified by the Director of Spanish Graduate Studies. The Director of Graduate Studies and the student will decide the specific days and times when the exams will take place. They will decide this at the beginning of the semester in which the exams take place. The examination takes place on two separate days, three hours per day, with a period of no more than 72 hours between those two days. The student’s advisor will request questions from the faculty at least three weeks before the first day of the examination.

The examination takes place on three separate days, two hours per day, with a period of no more than 48 hours between Day 1 and Day 2, or between Day 2 and Day 3. The examination consists of the following three parts, two hours per part, one part per day:

- Applied Linguistics
- Second-Language Methodology/Second Language Acquisition
- Literature and Culture



## **2.12. MALT Examining Committee**

Each candidate will name an Examining Committee and, as necessary, other faculty members who will prepare examination questions. The Examining Committee consists of at least three members, with a maximum of 5 members, all of them part of the graduate faculty at the University of Missouri. This committee will include the student's academic advisor and two other members of the graduate faculty in the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

## **2.13. Language of the MALT Examination**

The degree candidate must write at least half the MALT examination in Spanish. Faculty preparing questions may require native speakers of Spanish to write some answers in English.

## **2.14. Grades for the MALT Examination**

The MALT examination is graded as follows: High Pass, Pass, and Fail. In order to receive a passing grade on any part of the examination, a student must receive passing grades from two thirds of all faculty who prepared questions for that specific part. To pass the entire examination, students must receive passing grades on all parts.

With permission from the Examining Committee, students who fail part of the examination may retake only the failed part or parts. Two failures of the examination, in whole or in part, will terminate candidacy for the degree and result in dismissal from the program. A minimum of 14 days must elapse before a student retakes a failed part or failed parts of the examination.

## **2.15. MALT Examining Committee Report (M-3 Form)**

After a degree candidate completes the MALT examination, members of the Examining Committee will complete and sign the M-3 Form and submit it to the Director of Graduate Studies. After finding that the results comply with departmental and university regulations, the Director will sign the form and submit it to the Dean of the Graduate School for final approval.

## **2.16. MALT Thesis in Spanish (M-2 Form)**

Students choosing to write a thesis must name a Thesis Committee and submit an M-2 form **by the end of their second semester**. This committee will consist of no fewer than three members, one of whom must be outside the department. The advisor must be a member of the Spanish graduate faculty in the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

The writing of a MALT thesis is optional. The MALT thesis takes the place of the MALT

Comprehensive Examination. A minimum of 4 hours and a maximum of 6 hours of research credit (8080) will be allowed for the thesis. The thesis must conform to the University of Missouri's formatting and style specifications, available at this link: <http://gradschool.missouri.edu/policies/thesis-dissertation/guidelines/basics-ch1.php#masters>.

**Scope:** The scope and quality of the research project for the master's thesis for the MALT is expected to be of such a caliber that it could be submitted to a refereed journal in the student's discipline. The research project must be on a modern language education-related topic. This thesis can be written in English or in Spanish.

**Timeline:** Some of the thesis topics might require approval from campus IRB (Institutional Research Board) which can also increase the timeline to completion. If a student wishes to select the thesis option, this discussion **must** be initiated with their advisor immediately following the **first semester** of studies in the program at MU. A project proposal will then be submitted **prior to the end of the second semester** of studies to facilitate completion of the degree within two years.

## **2.17. Language of MALT Thesis**

Students might write the MALT thesis either in English or Spanish after previous consultation with their Thesis Committee.

## **2.18. Thesis Defense and Grades**

The MALT thesis requires a defense, open to the public, before the Thesis Committee. The thesis is graded as follows: High Pass, Pass, or Fail. In order to receive a passing grade on the MALT thesis, a student must receive passing grades from all members of the Thesis Committee.

With permission from the Thesis Committee, a student who receives a failing grade may revise and resubmit the thesis. A minimum of 30 days must elapse between the submission that resulted in the failing grade and the second submission. Two failing grades on the thesis will terminate candidacy for the degree and result in dismissal from the program. Alternatively, the Committee may deny permission to resubmit the thesis and require the candidate to complete the MALT Comprehensive Examination. The candidate will then have two attempts to pass the MALT examination.

## **2.19. Maximum of 8 Years to Complete MA or MALT Degree**

Students must complete all requirements for either the MA or the MALT degree within a period of eight years. This period begins on a student's first day of classes as an officially enrolled degree candidate in either the MA or the MALT program.

### **3. GRADUATE INSTRUCTORSHIPS**

#### **3.1. Semesters of Financial Support**

MA and MALT students normally receive 4 semesters of financial support from the university while completing their degree. In exceptional cases, students in good standing—with no grades of Incomplete and with unproblematic teaching—may receive a fifth semester of support, at the discretion of the faculty. Faculty will award a fifth semester of support according to the department's need for instructors. Students must submit all requests for a fifth semester of support in writing to the Director of Graduate Studies. No student will receive more than five semesters of support.

Students who fail to remove a grade of Incomplete within one year of its issuance will be limited to 5 hours of teaching per semester for as long as that grade of Incomplete remains on their academic records.

#### **3.2. Teaching Load**

The normal teaching assignment for MA candidates holding instructorships is 3-6 credit hours (1 course/2 courses) per semester. Students teach one course during the first semester. International students may never teach more than 8 hours (2 courses) per semester owing to visa restrictions. All MA and MALT candidates must be registered in a minimum of 6 hours of course work for each semester in which they hold an instructorship. Students may enroll in up to 6 hours per semester of 8080 (MA Examination) if they have completed their required course work and are preparing for their comprehensive examinations.

#### **3.3. Semester Evaluation of Graduate Students**

The faculty meet during the fall or winter semesters, or both, to evaluate the teaching and academic performance of all graduate students. The Director of Graduate Studies informs all students in writing of their status at the end of each semester or each academic year.

#### 4. MA AND MALT PROGRAM OF STUDIES (see below)

##### 4.1. Suggested program of studies for the MA in Literature\*

FALL 1	SPRING 2	FALL 3	SPRING 4
Span 7120: Second Language Teaching Methodology	Spanish 8000: Seminar in Afro- Hispanic/Latinx or Latin-American Lit. and Cult.	Spanish 8000: Seminar in Peninsular, Afro- Hispanic/Latinx or Latin-American Lit. and Cult.	Spanish 8000: Seminar in Afro- Hispanic/Latinx or Latin-American Lit. and Cult. (optional if requirements already fulfilled)
Spanish 8000: Seminar in Peninsular or Latin- American Lit. and Cult.	Spanish 7000: Peninsular or Latin- American Lit. and Cult.	Spanish 7000: Peninsular or Latin- American Lit. and Cult.	
Spanish 4000/7000: Peninsular or Latin- American Lit. and Cult.	Spanish 8000: Introduction to Hispanic Lit/Cult. and Its Pedagogy I	Spanish 8000: Introduction to Hispanic Lit/Cult and Its Pedagogy II	

\*MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CONSULT WITH THE DGS IN SPANISH BEFORE ENROLLING EACH SEMESTER

## 4.2. Suggested program of studies for the MALT\*

FALL 1	SPRING 2	FALL 3	SPRING 4
Span 7120: Second Language Teaching Methodology	Spanish 8000 (2): Seminar in Afro- Hispanic/Latinx or Latin-American Lit. and Cult.	Span 7130: Stylistics	Spanish 8000 (6): Bilingualism and Language Contact
Spanish 8000 (1): Seminar in Peninsular or Latin- American Literature	Spanish 8120 (3): Research in Second Language Learning	Spanish 8000 (4): Peninsular, Afro- Hispanic/Latinx or Latin-American Lit. and Cult.	SPAN 7723: Language and Society: Spanish in the US
Spanish 7721: Structure of Modern Spanish	Spanish 8000 (3): Introduction to Hispanic Lit/Cult. and Its Pedagogy I	Spanish 8000 (5): Introduction to Hispanic Lit/Cult and Its Pedagogy II	

\*MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CONSULT WITH THE DGS IN SPANISH BEFORE ENROLLING EACH SEMESTER

## 5. GRADUATION

Students need to submit the application for Completion of Graduate Degrees, Certificates, and Minor with the Graduate School **early in their last semester**. Instructions can be found here:

<https://gradschool.missouri.edu/current-students/graduation-commencement/application-for-graduation/>

## 6. SCHEDULE OF FORMS (MALT/MA)

In consultation with the DGS, students need to complete the following forms, which can be found here: <https://slc.missouri.edu/spanish/graduate-studies>

- M-1 Form (Program of Study for the Master's Degree): by the end of the first semester
- M-2 Form (Request for Thesis Committee): by the end of the second semester
- M-3 Form (Report of the Master's Thesis Committee): on the day of the final exam